

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 through 10, 11, 13 through 20, 21 and 23 through 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the Ohata et al. reference in view of the Dekimpe et al. reference. The Examiner has rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph. However, the Examiner has allowed claims 31 and 33. In addition, the Examiner has objected to claims 2, 12 and 22 and has indicated allowable subject matter if the objected claims are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the above claim amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above rejections.

Claim 32 has been amended to eliminate the antecedent issue.

All of the subject matter limitations of objected claims 2, 12 and 22 have been respectively incorporated into independent claims 1, 11 and 21. Since objected claims 2, 12 and 22 directly depend from corresponding one of independent claims 1, 11 and 21, the conditions for allowance that the Examiner has set in the pending Office Action have been satisfied. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that newly amended independent claims 1, 11 and 21 should be now allowable.

Dependent claims 2, 12 and 22 have been cancelled. Consequently, the dependency of claims 3, 13 and 23 has been respectively amended to depend from newly amended independent claims 1, 11 and 21.

Dependent claims 3 through 10, 13 through 20, and 23 through 30 ultimately dependent from newly amended independent claims 1, 11 or 21 and incorporate the above discussed patentable features of the newly amended independent claims. For this and the

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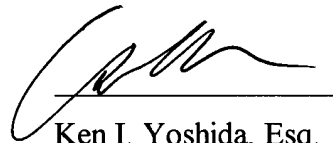
Response to the Office Action of January 12, 2005

above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that all of the pending rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken I. Yoshida', is written over a horizontal line.

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